

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings and versions in this application:

Claims 1. to 11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) A magnetic jewelry-forming component for preparing a jewelry article comprising a body member configured and dimensioned in an ornamental shape and having a first magnetizable portion for repulsive magnetic association with at least one other magnetic jewelry-forming component and at least one further element that has a magnetized portion of the same polarity as the first magnetizable portion for magnetic association therewith, wherein the body member has a magnetic strength that can be overcome by a person's hand strength such that the body member and at least one other magnetic jewelry-forming component can be placed in different positions relative to each other, and wherein the further element comprises a retaining structure that prevents complete separation of the body member from the at least one other magnetic jewelry-forming component when the first magnetized portion of the body member is magnetically repulsed from the at least one other magnetic jewelry-forming component, wherein the body member has outer and inner surfaces, the at least one other jewelry-forming component comprises at least one dimensioning member that is operatively associated with the body member with the first magnetizable portion of the body member and the dimensioning member magnetically repulsing each other with a maximum magnetic strength that can be overcome by a person's hand strength, such that the magnetic repulsion between the body and dimensioning members enables the component to attain a first configuration wherein the dimensioning member is positioned remotely from the body member and a second configuration wherein the person's hand strength urges the dimensioning members towards the body member, so that the jewelry component can be adjusted to conform to the person.

13. (Original) The jewelry-forming component of claim 12 wherein the inner surface of the body member defines a cavity having a depth sufficient to receive the at least one dimensioning member such that the dimensioning member fits inside the cavity when urged therein by a person's hand strength.

14. (Original) The jewelry-forming component of claim 13 wherein the dimensioning member is associated with the body member cavity with a mechanical connection that prevents complete separation of the at least one dimensioning member from the body member in the first configuration.

15. (Original) The jewelry-forming component of claim 14 wherein the cavity includes a narrowed or partially blocked opening and the mechanical connection comprises an extension provided on the dimensioning member that fits through the narrowed opening and includes an end portion having a size or shape that is larger than the opening so that the at least one dimensioning member cannot be completely separated from the body member.

16. (Original) The jewelry-forming component of claim 13 wherein the body is configured in the shape of a ring and the at least one dimensioning member has an arcuate shape that is complementary to a portion of the ring.

17. (Original) The jewelry-forming component of claim 16 wherein the ring is oval or round and includes between two and sixteen dimensioning members.

18. (Original) The jewelry-forming component of claim 16 wherein the ring includes a ramp positioned adjacent a dimensioning member to minimize gaps between adjacent dimensioning members.

19. (Previously Presented) A jewelry article in the form of a ring, bracelet, anklet, choker, necklace, earring, or watchband comprising the jewelry-forming component of claim 12 so that the article is self-sizing to the wearer.

Claims 20. to 32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) A jewelry article comprising a continuous loop that includes magnetically coupled first and second oppositely magnetized jewelry-forming components each comprising a body member configured and dimensioned in an ornamental shape and having an outer surface that includes a first magnetizable portion for attractive magnetic association with the magnetized outer surface of the at least one other magnetic

jewelry-forming component, wherein each body member has a magnetic strength that can be overcome by a person's hand strength such that the body member and the at least one other magnetic jewelry-forming component can be placed in different positions relative to each other, wherein the magnetizable portion of the first component has a polarity that is different from that of the second component so that it is magnetically attracted thereto, wherein each outer surface includes a flat portion so that the body members are magnetically coupled by contact of their flat portions.

34. (Original) The jewelry article of claim 33 wherein at least one of the members has adornments on the inner surface that are hidden when the members are magnetically coupled by contact of the inner faces, but which adornments are visible when the members are magnetically coupled by contact of the flat portions.

35. (Previously Presented) The jewelry article of claim 33 in the form of a ring, bracelet, necklace or chain link.

36. (Previously Presented) A jewelry article comprising an interlocked chain which comprises a plurality of continuous loops formed by magnetic coupling of first and second oppositely magnetized jewelry forming components, with loops interlocked to form the chain, the jewelry-forming components each comprising a body member configured and dimensioned in an ornamental shape and that includes a first magnetizable portion for attractive magnetic association with the at least one other magnetic jewelry-forming component, wherein each body member has a magnetic strength that can be overcome by a person's hand strength such that the body member and the at least one other magnetic jewelry-forming component can be placed in different positions relative to each other, wherein the magnetizable portion of the first component has a polarity that is different from that of the second component so that it is magnetically attracted thereto.

37. (Original) The jewelry article of claim 36 further comprising one or more charms or adornments securely but releasably attached to one or more of the loops and optionally including a clasp for opening or closing the chain for placement on the wearer.

Claims 38. to 40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously Presented) The jewelry article of claim 36 wherein the first and second magnetized members are at least partially arcuate in shape.

42. (Previously Presented) The jewelry article of claim 36 wherein the first and second members have an inner or outer face, and are magnetically coupled in face to face relation.

43. (Previously Presented) The jewelry article of claim 36 wherein the first and second magnetized members have a C or U shape and are magnetically coupled so that open areas are not adjacent to allow other articles to be releasably secured to the loop.

44. (Previously Presented) The jewelry article of claim 43 wherein the loop has a circular, elliptical or oval shape, and optionally with straight or linear portions.

45. (Previously Presented) The jewelry article of claim 44 wherein the first and second magnetized members each have outer and inner surfaces, and one or both of the members has one or more adornments on the outer or inner surface or both surfaces.

46. (Previously Presented) The jewelry article of claim 33 in the form of a ring having a circular, elliptical or oval shape, and optionally with straight or linear portions.

47. (Previously Presented) The jewelry article of claim 46 wherein the first and second magnetized members each have outer and inner surfaces, and one or both of the members has one or more adornments on the outer or inner surface or both surfaces.